MARVEL COMICS

SPIDER-MAN

FEB '97 13

THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

STAMPEDE IN THE SAVAGE LAND!

PROLOGUE

IT BEGINS WITH A DRIP --

-- A TINY TRICKLE THAT EVOLVES INTO A CHORTLING RIVULET --

-- SEEPING DOWN INTO THE SUBTERRANEAN STRATA FAR BENEATH THE ANTARCTIC TUNDRA ABOVE --

-- RUNNING INTO LIGHTLESS CAVERNS NEVER SEEN BY MAN --

-- DISTURBING THE MILLENNIA-LONG SLEEP OF ONE --

-- THAT SHOULD NEVER BE AWAKENED!

KRAW!

KRAW!

KRAW

THE OFFICE OF J. JONAH JAMESON, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER OF THE NEW YORK DAILY BUGLE --

...THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE, PARKER...

... YOU NEED AN ASSIGNMENT. I NEED SOMEONE TO GO TO THE SAVAGE LAND. YOU'VE BEEN THERE BEFORE. SO...

... I NOMINATE YOU!

... THE SAVAGE...

-- WHERE YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER, PETER PARKER IS BEING MANIPULATED INTO HIS NEXT ASSIGNMENT...

Oh NO... JONAH! NO WAY! I AM NOT GONNA LET YOU TALK ME INTO --

-- I CAN'T BELIEVE I LET HIM TALK ME INTO THIS.

OF COURSE, MARY JANE DID AGREE THAT THE MONEY FROM THIS GIG WILL HELP PAY FOR US BOTH TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL... SO THAT'S A PLUS...

... THE ONLY PLUS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IF I CAN HAVE YOUR ATTENTION...

... I'M SPECIAL AGENT CHRIS TOWNSEND OF SHIELD. I'M HEADING UP WHAT IS ACTUALLY A U.N. VENTURE HERE AT THE SOUTH POLE...

... IT'S ALSO MY JOB TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU PRESS PEOPLE GET IN, SEE EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO SEE, AND THEN GET BACK OUT... SAFELY!

THIS IS NOT A FIELD TRIP. YOU ARE FREE TO GO WHEREVER AND SEE WHATEVER YOU LIKE... BUT BE ADVISED...

STRATEGIC HAZARD INTERVENTION ESPIONAGE AND LOGISTICS DIRECTORATE -- r.a.l.f.

... DESPITE ITS APPEARANCE AS A ***TROPICAL PARADISE,*** THE SAVAGE LAND CAN ***FAST*** BECOME A ***DANGEROUS, DEADLY*** PLACE!

SHOULD YOU DECIDE TO ***JOURNEY*** OUT INTO THE ***JUNGLE*** ITSELF, PLEASE DO SO IN THE COMPANY OF ONE OF OUR ***SHIELD ADVISORS.***

AS YOU'VE ALL READ IN THE U.N.'S ***PRESS RELEASE,*** THE ENVIRONMENTAL ***DAMAGE*** IS...

YEAH, I'VE ***READ*** THE REPORTS... AND IT'S ALMOST TOO ***INCREDIBLE TO BELIEVE!***

THAT THE DAMAGE WE'VE DONE TO THE ***OZONE LAYER*** IS FINALLY ***TAKING ITS TOLL*** -- THAT THE HOLE IN THE OZONE ABOVE THE ***ANTARCTIC*** --

-- IS ***MELTING*** THE ***GLACIERS*** AT AN ***ALARMING RATE!*** AND THE PLACE THAT STANDS TO CATCH THE ***WORST*** OF IT IS THE ***SAVAGE LAND*** --

-- WHICH IS LITERALLY ONE HUGE ***VALLEY BASIN,*** LOCATED JUST BELOW THE ***ETERNITY MOUNTAIN RANGE.*** WHEN THOSE ***ICE CAPS MELT...***

... THE WATER WILL START ***POURING*** INTO THERE LIKE THERE'S NO ***MAÑANA!*** AND THERE ***WON'T BE..!***

... ALL THE ***NATIVES,*** ALL THE ***ANIMALS*** -- ***EVERYTHING*** IN THE SAVAGE LAND WILL BE ***INUNDATED*** AS ***OCEANS*** OF WATER COME ***CRASHING IN!***

IT'LL BE THE WORST ***ENVIRONMENTAL CATASTROPHE*** EVER...

... UNLESS THE ***U.N.*** AND ***SHIELD*** CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT...

STAN LEE Presents: A SPIDER IN A SPIDER LAND -- DELUGE PART ONE

A SAVAGE LAND

TODD DEZAGO Words
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RICHARD CASE Inks
RICHARD STARKINGS and COMICRAFT Letters
GREGORY WRIGHT Colors
GCW Separations
RALPH MACCHIO Editor
BOB HARRAS Chief

LADIES, GENTLEMEN -- WELCOME TO THE SAVAGE LAND!

WOW! I'VE ONLY BEEN HERE A HANDFUL OF TIMES, BUT EVERY TIME I SEE IT, IT'S...

...IT'S JUST SO...

-- WOW!

Oh!

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FOLKS -- IF YOU COULD ***STEP THIS WAY...***

... PROJECT ***COMMAND CENTER***. HERE WE ***COLLECT*** AND ***COLLATE*** THE ***DATA*** RELAYED IN FROM ***SUB-STATIONS*** THROUGH-OUT THE SAVAGE LAND...

... FOR THE MOST PART, THIS VENTURE IS A ***JOINT EFFORT*** BY THE U.N., *SHIELD*...

... AND THE ***ROXXON CORPORATION!***

MUCH OF THIS ***RESEARCH EQUIPMENT***, AND THE ***TECHNICIANS*** WHO MONITOR IT, WERE ***PROVIDED*** BY ROXXON...

... ROXXON ***EMPLOYEES***, THE ***MILES-LONG REFRIGERATION UNITS*** YOU SAW PLACED ALONG THE ***GLACIERS*** COMING IN -- ALL ***DONATED*** BY ***ROXXON!***

WHO SAYS ***BIG BUSINESS*** DOESN'T ***CARE..?***

... OBVIOUSLY, WHEN IT COMES TO ***ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, EVERYONE*** NEEDS TO BE ***CONCERNED!***

--Dr. ***GERALD ROTH.***

AND THIS IS THE GUY WHOSE ***NUMBERS*** AND ***KNOW-HOW*** ARE GOING TO ***SAVE*** THE SAVAGE LAND --

WE ***HOPE!***

HI, EVERYONE -- LET ME START BY ***THANKING YOU ALL*** FOR MAKING THE ***LONG TREK SOUTH*** --

-- I CAN'T BEGIN TO TELL YOU HOW ***IMPORTANT*** YOUR ***COVERAGE*** OF WHAT WE'RE ***DOING*** DOWN HERE ***IS.***

THE ***WORLD*** NEEDS TO KNOW OF THE ***HORROR*** WE'RE ***ALL*** FACING.

AND AS AN IMPROMPTU **PRESS CONFERENCE** STARTS UP --

-- A **CURIOUS** (AND **IMPATIENT**) PETER PARKER SURREPTITIOUSLY **SLIPS AWAY** --

-- EMERGING MOMENTS LATER FROM A CONVENIENT **EXHAUST DUCT** -- AS THE **SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN!**

NOW **THIS** IS MORE **LIKE IT!**

SPROING

SPROING

SPROING

SPROING

I'M NOT INTERESTED IN ANY **"PREPARED STATEMENTS"** OR **"OFFICIAL STORIES"**...

...IF THERE'S ONE THING I'VE LEARNED FROM BEING A **PHOTOJOURNALIST**, IT'S THAT SOMETIMES THE **BEST STORY** --

-- ALL DEPENDS ON **WHO YOU TALK TO..!**

...NOW IF I CAN JUST **FIND** HIM...

MEANWHILE, NEARBY; IN THE VILLAGE OF THE FALL PEOPLE --

-- WHERE THE ORDER OF THE DAY IS SYSTEMATIC PANIC, AS THE NATIVES RACE TO EVACUATE THEIR DOOMED COMMUNITY.

IN THE PANDEMONIUM, CHAOTIC EVENTS --

-- COLLIDE --

KRUNK

-- WITH ALL TOO DEADLY RESULTS..!

AAHH--

WHOOSH

--IIEEE!

KRASH

SIMPLY PUT -- HE IS LORD OF THIS SAVAGE LAND!

HE WAS STRANDED HERE AS A YOUTH, AND LEFT TO SURVIVE ITS PERILS, UNTIL THE DAY HE CLAIMED THIS HIDDEN WORLD AS HIS DOMAIN!

NOW, THIS TIMELOST REALM TOTTERS ON THE BRINK OF ARMAGEDDON -- AND ITS MASTER REFUSES TO ABANDON IT!

<SHE'S ALL RIGHT, MELA --A LITTLE SHAKEN UP MAYBE...>

<OH, MY LITTLE TINTA! THANK YOU, THANK YOU!>

TRANSLATED FROM THE LANGUAGE OF THE FALL PEOPLE --<Ralf>

<TONGA -- WHEN YOU HAVE A MINUTE...>

<WHAT HAVE YOU HEARD?>

<TOWNSEND SENT SOME MEN TO TELL US THAT THE DAM ON THE MOUNTAIN LAKE IS FAR BEYOND ITS CAPACITY..>

<.. WHEN IT BLOWS, THE WATER WILL CRASH THROUGH THE VALLEY AND TURN THE VILLAGE INTO TOOTHPICKS! -->

<I TOLD HIM TO TELL ME SOMETHING WE DIDN'T KNOW..>

<HE SAID WE'LL BE LUCKY IF IT DOESN'T BURST BY NIGHTFALL.>

<WE'LL HAVE TO PICK UP THE PACE WITHOUT PANICKING THEM ANY FURTHER.>

<AGREED. ALSO, I THINK WE JUST RECEIVED A LITTLE MORE HELP.>

YOU CAN COME DOWN NOW WE KNOW YOU'RE UP THERE...

Oh, YEAH? WELL...

... I KNEW YOU KNEW!

<YOU'RE A LONG WAY TO BE DELIVERING A PIZZA -- WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?!>

I HEARD YOU WERE HAVING SOME "DRAINAGE PROBLEMS" --

-- SO I THOUGHT I'D SWING BY TO SEE IF THERE WAS ANYTHING THAT I COULD DO TO HELP..!

INTERLUDE

MONSTER ISLE -- LOCATED SOMEWHERE WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE --

SKOOM

-- WHERE A HANDFUL OF ERRANT MONSTERS WAIT PATIENTLY FOR THE RETURN OF THEIR ABSENT MASTER!

RRRR

SKOOM

RUMMMBLE

?

-- ERNT?!

WHERE THE MONOTONY IS BROKEN BY THE SOUND OF A DISTANT RUMBLE --

HUH?!

!

!

KRAW!

--A BUILDING TREMOR THAT FILLS THEM WITH DREAD, FOR IT HERALDS THE COMING OF THE ONE ... WHO WOULD BE ...

... THEIR DOOM!

END INTERLUDE

MEANWHILE --

... THE REFRIGERATION UNITS CONTINUE TO OPERATE AT PEAK EFFICIENCY...

... BUT EVEN WITH THAT, THEY CANNOT POSSIBLY KEEP UP WITH THE RATE AT WHICH THE GLACIERS ARE MELTING!

WE'RE FIGHTING AGAINST NATURE AND IT'S A LOSING BATTLE...

... BY Dr. ROTH'S CALCULATIONS, EVEN WITH THE FREEZER UNITS CONTINUING AT MAXIMUM OUTPUT --

-- THE SAVAGE LAND WILL BE COMPLETELY UNDERWATER IN A MONTH'S TIME!

THAT'S IT, THEN...

... WE'RE FINISHED...

-- MEANWHILE -- MANY METERS ABOVE --

-- THE MELTING GLACIER YIELDS UP ITS OWN BAD NEWS --

-- AS THE FLOWING WATERS GRADUALLY REVEAL THE SLOWLY THAWING FORM OF THE ONE WHO IS CALLED --

-- STEGRON!

WELL, I GUESS EVERYONE IS WILLING TO STOP ***PANICKING*** LONG ENOUGH TO LOOK AT A GUY DRESSED LIKE A ***GREAT BIG SPIDER..!***

MAYBE NOW THAT WE HAVE THEIR ***ATTENTION...***

... WE CAN GET THEM TO AT LEAST PANIC IN A MORE ***ORDERLY FASHION.***

HOW COME ***SHIELD*** ISN'T ORGANIZING THE ***EVACUATION?***

THE ***FALL PEOPLE*** AREN'T THE MOST ***TRUSTING*** OF ***TRIBES...*** IN THE PAST, PEOPLE HAVE TRIED TO EITHER ***ENSLAVE*** OR ***EXPLOIT*** THEM.

WHEN TOWNSEND AND HIS MEN SHOWED UP, I ACTED AS ***REPRESENTATIVE,*** OFFERING, FOR ***THEIR*** PEACE OF MIND, THAT ***WE*** ORCHESTRATE THE ***MOVE.***

WHICH WOULD BE ***GREAT,*** EXCEPT THEY KEEP MOVING UP THE ***DEADLINE*** ON US..!

THEY ORIGINALLY SAID THAT THE ***GREAT MOUNTAIN LAKE*** WAS FILLING TO CAPACITY ***QUICKLY.***

THAT WHEN THE DAM ***BROKE,*** IT WOULD COMPLETELY ***SUBMERGE*** THIS LOWER PART OF THE VALLEY...

THEY GAVE US ***TWELVE DAYS...*** THAT WAS A WEEK AGO...TODAY THEY CHANGED IT TO ***HOURS..!***

RRRR

WHA --?

MAKE THAT ***HOUR,*** KA-ZAR --

TOWNSEND SAID HE'S ***SORRY,*** BUT THE ***TIMETABLE*** JUST GOT MOVED UP ***AGAIN...***

... YOU'VE GOT ***60 MINUTES*** TO GET YOUR PEOPLE TO ***HIGHER GROUND!***

AND SO IT BEGINS...

... AS KA-ZAR AND SPIDER-MAN MOUNT A DESPERATE RACE AGAINST BOTH TIME... AND NATURE!

LENDING STRENGTH, SPEED, AND KNOWLEDGE TO THE ALL-TOO-URGENT TASK AT HAND..!

KNOWING ALL THE WHILE, THAT THE ODDS ARE STACKED DANGEROUSLY AGAINST THEM!

AND --

BAAAANK!

<TUKUK! NOOO!>

THAT GOAT -- PANICKING -- SWINGING THE WHOLE LIFT OFF-BALANCE --!

BAAA --

<NOOO!>

JUST ONE CHANCE...

THWP

BAAH --?

THWAP

GOT IT! BUT NOW WITH THE LIFT AND THE GOAT, THE WHOLE THING'S AWKWARD! --

I'VE GOT THE STRENGTH, BUT I DON'T HAVE THE LEVERAGE --

-- OR THE TRACTION! MY FEET ARE SLIDING IN THIS DUSTY DIRT!

I'M LOSING IT! LOSING IT!...

...Huh?!

Y'KNOW, YOU'VE BEEN WORKING SOLO FOR TOO LONG --

-- IT'S OKAY TO CALL FOR ***BACK-UP*** NOW AND THEN..!

SOON, IN A HUT OCCUPIED BY THE WIFE OF KA-ZAR...

HOW ***IS*** SHE..?

SHE'S STILL ***FEVERISH,*** BUT SHE'LL BE ***FINE*** --

-- I SEE YOU'VE FOUND A ***FRIEND*** -- HELLO, SPIDER-MAN --

HI, ***SHANNA!***

I SENT HER MOTHER ***AHEAD,*** TO GET A ***BED*** READY.

WHAT'S -- WHAT'S ***WRONG*** WITH HER..?

SHE HAS ***MALARIA.*** IT WOULD BE SIMPLE ENOUGH FOR US TO ***CURE,*** BUT THE TRIBAL SHAMAN ***RESENTS*** MY ***MEDICAL TRAINING.***

HE HAS TURNED THE TRIBE ***AGAINST*** HER, CLAIMING THAT SHE SHOULD BE ***LEFT OUT*** TO SURVIVE ON HER OWN -- MAKING HER AN ***OUTCAST.***

SO WE'VE BEEN ***CARING*** FOR --

NO --

GRRR--!

THE DAM --

Oh, NO!

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

GO! GO! GO! IT'LL BE HERE IN SECONDS!

EVERYBODY GO HIGH!

ZABU! UP!

SHOOM

KRASH

KA-ZAR! COME UP! COME UP!

I CAN MAKE IT! I CAN MAKE IT!

I'M NOT GONNA MAKE IT! I'M NOT --

SHOOM

CHOOM

THWP

WHOA!

YANK

KRASH

KA-ZAR!

Y'KNOW --

THUMP

-- IT'S OKAY TO CALL FOR BACK-UP!

... RECENT DATA ***INDICATES*** THAT THERE HAS BEEN A ***TREMENDOUS INCREASE*** IN THE ***RATE*** OF ***MELTING***, AND SADLY --

-- FOR ALL OUR ***VAUNTED TECHNOLOGY***, THERE IS ***NOTHING*** WE CAN DO TO ***HALT*** THIS ***DEVASTATING CATASTROPHE!***

I'M AFRAID, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THAT THE ***SAVAGE LAND*** IS ***LOST!***

THERE WILL BE ***OFFICIAL STATEMENTS*** AND ***PRESS KITS*** ISSUED BY THE ***U.N.*** WITHIN THE ***HOUR.***

OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE ***NOW*** IS THE ***EVACUATION*** AND ***RELOCATION*** OF THE ***INDIGENOUS PEOPLES*** AND ***WILDLIFE*** IN THE VALLEY.

WHAT ARE THE NUMBERS UP TO ***NOW?***

NOW THAT WE'VE ***INCREASED*** THE ***OUTPUT*** ON THE ...***"REFRIGERATION" UNITS*** --

-- THE ICECAPS ARE ***DETERIORATING*** AT ROUGHLY ***TRIPLE*** THE PREVIOUS RATE, SIR.

IT'S ***FUTILE*** TO KEEP MOVING THEM TO HIGHER AND ***HIGHER ELEVATIONS***, SINCE THERE SOON WON'T BE ANY ***HIGHER GROUND TO GO TO!***

ALSO, WE'LL BE...

GOOD... GOOD...

... WITH THE OBJECTIVE SO CLOSE, THE ROXXON ***BOARD MEMBERS*** WILL BE ***PLEASED*** TO LEARN --

-- THAT THE SAVAGE LAND WILL BE ***ENTIRELY SUBMERGED IN NO TIME!***

INTERLUDE;

MONSTER ISLE -- WHERE A LOW, MUFFLED CHORUS OF SCREAMS RESONATES FROM DEEP WITHIN THIS CRAGGY EDIFACE --

-- CHTYLOK --

-- THE CHE-K'N KAU!

KRAW!

-- RISING TO A SUDDEN CACOPHONOUS DIN...

...AS A COLLECTION OF ITS WEIRD AND BIZARRE INHABITANTS SPEW FORTH FROM THE DARK AND TWISTED CAVERNS --

-- FLEEING THE LONG-DORMANT FURY OF THE CREATURE CALLED --

SKRA!

NEXT ISSUE
SPIDEY! KA-ZAR!
SHANNA! SHIELD!
ROXXON! STEGRON!
THE CHTYLOK!
(AND A GUEST APPEARANCE BY A CERTAIN GAMMA-GRAY GOLIATH!)